

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/614,295

Applicant(s)

YONEKURA ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Michael Kornakov

1746

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 03/02/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 6,10,11,15 and 16.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. M. Huppert, esq., on 05/24/2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

Cancel claims 1-5, 12-14.

In claim 6, line 3, after the word "performing" insert ---a---

In claim 6, line 3, replace the word "of" after the words "chemical liquid cleaning" by the words ---operation on---

In claim 6, line 5, insert the word ---simultaneously--- before the words "cleaning, with a cleaning liquid"

In claim 6, line 10, after the words "the cleaning vessel;" insert ---and---

In claim 6 delete the words "; and rinsing said object to be cleaned" after the words "drying the object after completion of said cleaning of the surface of the object"

In claim 15 after the words "spraying a liquid from a fourth liquid spray nozzle to clean an inner wall of the cleaning vessel, wherein" insert ---liquid is sprayed simultaneously from the second, third and fourth nozzles, and wherein---

Response to amendment

2. All previous rejections and objections have been overcome by the amendment, filed 11/09/2006 in combination with the Examiner's amendment and the objections and rejections are withdrawn. Upon reconsideration claims 15 and 16 are re-joined and examined on the merits.

Allowable Claims

3. Claims 6, 10, 11, 15, 16 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Reasons for Allowance

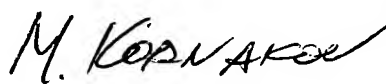
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art of record is U.S. 6,945,259 to Masui et al. Masui teaches substrate cleaning method, which includes the step of cleaning inner surfaces of the cup after the cleaning of substrate. However, Masui fails to anticipate or suggest fairly a substrate cleaning method, which includes simultaneous spraying from different nozzles the inner walls of the cleaning cup, the inner walls of the cleaning vessel and the surface of the substrate, and continuing spraying the surface of the substrate after the spraying of the inner wall of the cleaning cup and the inner wall of the cleaning vessel are stopped. Upon further search no other prior art that anticipates or suggests fairly the instant claims has been located as of the date of this office action. Therefore, claims 6, 10, 11, 15, 16 are allowed over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Kornakov whose telephone number is (571) 272-1303. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am - 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr can be reached on (571) 272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Michael Kornakov
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1746

05/24/2007

Application/Control Number: 10/614,295

Art Unit: 1746

Page 5